

## Testimony opposing RN Licensure Fee increase in APRN Bill HB 5400 Health Policy 9-20-16

Expanding APRN scope of practice is a great idea, both for the professionals and the patients of Michigan. Improving access by removing market barriers will serve all of us best. I have only two concerns.

1. First, the bill has a poison pill of increasing RN and LPN licensure fees. This clear market barrier, erected amid ACA disruption and rising market prices, seems perverse to say the least. An effective health professional shortage is increasing nationwide due to adverse market pressures. In Michigan's healthcare market specifically, the supply of actively-practicing RNs has dropped 13.8% since 2012, based upon LARA and Kaiser Family Foundation data.

Since 1989, the RN renewal fee has tripled to the current level, which would be now doubled by this provision. This levy increase upon Michigan nurses will gain LARA over \$8.5 Million in revenue. LARA adds zero value to care with this provision: this is nothing more than doubling down on a tax. If anything, license fees should be reduced to encourage more nurses to practice in Michigan. Everyone's budget is tight. Agencies like LARA would serve MI better by finding ways to cut their spending, as Michigan taxpayers have been forced to do.

2. My second concern is that this expansion has been so long delayed, and hearts longing for it have been made so sick by the delay, that trying to pass the poison pill in it amounts almost to extortion. Why would this legislative body pit self-interests of APRNs against those of RNs by linking improved scope of practice for one, to increased license fees of the other in the same bill? We should all be on the same side here: we want better care, for lower costs, for more people. Pleasing the regulatory agency with an easy balance for their budget is not the first step to meeting this priority. Please remove Section 16327 and enable this bill to serve the best interests of all MI patients and professionals. *of original proposed bill*

Thank you.

**Arizona:** Advanced practice is tied in with the RN license. Renewal of RN license every 4 years for \$160 also renews APRN license. The initial fee is a lot more-\$50 for fingerprints, \$150 for prescribing and dispensing license, and \$150 for APRN license. IN: \$50/2-year RN renewal.

KFF: April 2016 active MI RNs- 117,841 X \$60 = \$7,070,460. 142,581 nurses x \$60= \$8,554,860  
<http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-registered-nurses/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colid%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

LARA/DCH (via MI Center for Nursing, pg 4): Jan 2012 active MI RNs- 136,770

<https://www.michigancenterfornursing.org/downloads/2012Survey.pdf>

difference: 18,929 divided by total = 13.8%